



**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free, Luke,4**



Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT) is a faith-based group which seeks to create public awareness of the issue of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and works collaboratively to specifically prevent the trafficking of women and children.

APT is a committee of AMRI and comprises representatives from various religious congregations and missionary societies. We also have lay members who work with us, very successfully and happily, in different capacities.

The APT group were founded here in 2005 and we are joyfully celebrating 20 years in 2025. A brief resumé of that founding is as follows; “ 5th Nov 2005 Nóirín O’ Shea, RGS., met with Fr. Michael Drennan SJ, CORI Secretary General to propose having a CORI meeting Against Human Trafficking with Sr. Helene Hayes sharing some of the results of her research giving voice to the victims of human trafficking. Michael was very positive, and the meeting was planned in 20 minutes!!

23rd Nov 2005 Nóirín met with Fr. Michael Drennan SJ, CORI Sec. General, Sr. Helene Hayes and Sr. Gerardine Rowley, Good Shepherd Sister and Ruhama PRO at the CORI headquarters in Avila to agree the detailed programme for the day. Gerardine agreed to give an update on Ruhama’s work with victims of trafficking.

25th Nov. 2005 CORI Day with Sr. Helene Hayes RGS on Anti-Trafficking in Avila

Approximately 60 people were in attendance:4 males and 56 females representing different Congregations. The stories of the harsh reality of trafficking shocked and angered the participants, who agreed that we



needed to act together to combat this heinous crime. **19th Dec 2005 First meeting of CORI Anti-Trafficking group of Religious** at Dunardagh, with 12 religious representing different congregations. This group was later to be called APT AMRI.”

We work collaboratively with Religious based groups – RENATE, (Religious in Europe Networking against Trafficking and Exploitation), the Santa Marta Group which is Vatican based, MECPATHS (Mercy Efforts for Child Protection Against Trafficking) and Talitha Kum, founded by UISG.

We also collaborate with many civil organisations, for example, the Department of Justice where we represent the voice of civil society. Over the past year members have attended meetings with the Department of Justice - at present we meet with them in relation to the National Referral Mechanism- NRM, a new bill for the identification and support of victims of human trafficking.



Attending the School of Criminology Conference in Maynooth June 2024.

We also attend meetings with IHREC, (Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission)

We work with the SDG section of the Governmental Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals, Trafficking is included as goal #8.7 #16.2



Ambassador David Donohoe (Father of the SDGs) with APT Ireland at the SDG Stakeholder Forum in Croke Park, Dublin.

Our **cAPTives** Human Trafficking awareness-raising programme for post-Primary schools in the Republic of Ireland is under review at present and a module on Pornography is to be included. We are grateful to Ruth Breslin of SERP for her work and support in this regard.



In 2025, APT successfully applied for and received a grant from the Dept. of Justice to support the **cAPTives** programme. This is unprecedented and illustrates the extent of a Governmental Department's interest and confidence in our mission.

The post-primary schools' Chaplains Conference in Roscommon rendered many new contacts.



The students in Mount Mercy College, Bishopstown, Cork city, having just completed the cAPTives programme, enjoyed a rare and wonderful interview with Timothy Schmalz, the Sculptor of the work 'Let the oppressed go free.'

Lynda Marsh who is promoter of the programme is working to have it included in the NCCA curriculum.

Two APT members gave a presentation to the Loreto House, Dublin, on the issue of Human Trafficking. The presentation was very well received.

APT members attended the Annual Day for the Elimination of Extreme Poverty on October 17th. They had the opportunity to inform those present of the issues related to Human Trafficking.



APT was invited to two conferences during the year, the Santa Marta Conference in Cork (left), which took place in June 2024 and the second conference took place at NUI Maynooth (photo below), focused on the theme "Human Trafficking from a Faith and Justice Perspective." This conference was organized by Sister Mary Ryan RSM and Dr. Suzanne Mulligan, NUI Maynooth.



APT Ireland attending the Santa Marta Conference in Maynooth in November 2024

We were very pleased when we were informed by the HSCEHT group in Ireland (The Health & Social Care Education and Human Trafficking group) that a module on trafficking has been incorporated into the training of healthcare workers. Two sisters from APT attend their monthly meetings.

APT AMRI
ASSOCIATION OF
LEADERS OF WIFEWARRIORS
& RELIGIOUS OF IRELAND

Human Trafficking - Make it Stop

APT Ireland

1800 666 111
Need Help?
www.blueblindfold.ie

Human Trafficking is not OK
You can help to end it!

A poster with a dark background. On the left, there is a white hand with fingers spread, palm facing forward. In the top left corner, there is a small APT logo. In the top right corner, there is a QR code. The text is in white and yellow.

For our part as an initiative to mark APT's 20th anniversary, APT has prepared posters and calling cards for distribution to health care settings, Parish centres and beyond. This is going to be a long-term initiative and calls on all of us to play our part.

Human Trafficking is a Crime

1800 666 111

A poster with a dark background. In the center, there is a stylized illustration of a person being held or restrained by another person. To the right of the illustration is a QR code. The text is in white and yellow.

APT
ACT TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING

blueblindfold.ie

The APT logo and website address on a red background. The logo consists of white silhouettes of hands reaching upwards and the letters 'APT' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below the logo, the text 'ACT TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING' is written in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website address 'blueblindfold.ie' is written in a blue, lowercase sans-serif font.



An additional initiative to mark APT's 20th anniversary has been the renewal of the APT website, which will be officially launched late summer 2025.

Thank you to all who support us in this work.

Sr. Denise O' Brien, LSU.

Chair APT Steering Team.